

Ted
Reed

25. 

Foreword

The Bongos and Conga Drum are just two of the many rhythm instruments which supply the very exciting rhythms in the rhythm section of the Latin American orchestras. They are also the two most important in the section. Others include the Timbales, Maracas, Claves, Guiro etc. In recent years they have been used with much success in modern jazz groups and orchestras.

We have seen and heard the Bongos and Conga Drum played by many individuals - and in many different ways. However, there is a correct way to play them in order to produce the right sounds. On the following pages explaining the basic rhythms for the Bongos and Conga Drum, we will try to explain - with examples etc. - just how and where to strike these drums so that you will be able to produce the right sounds. It is very important that you play these basic rhythms correctly, for this is the key to playing these drums in a professional manner.

If you do not understand the rudiments of music - notes, rests etc. - you should learn them immediately. May we suggest that you purchase a book titled, "Progressive Steps To Syncopation", by Ted Reed. Take this book to a reputable drum teacher and have him teach you how to analyze these rhythms. If you do, the rewards will be great. To do-it-yourself will only be frustrating, for you will never attain the goal you aim for.

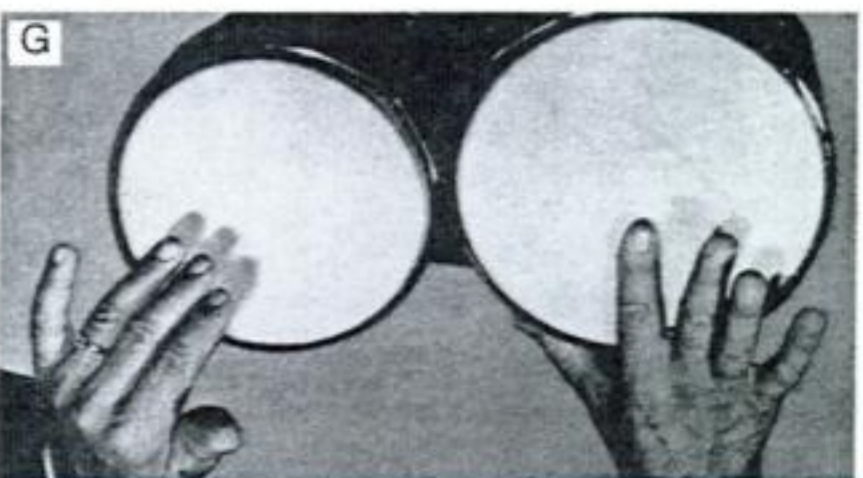
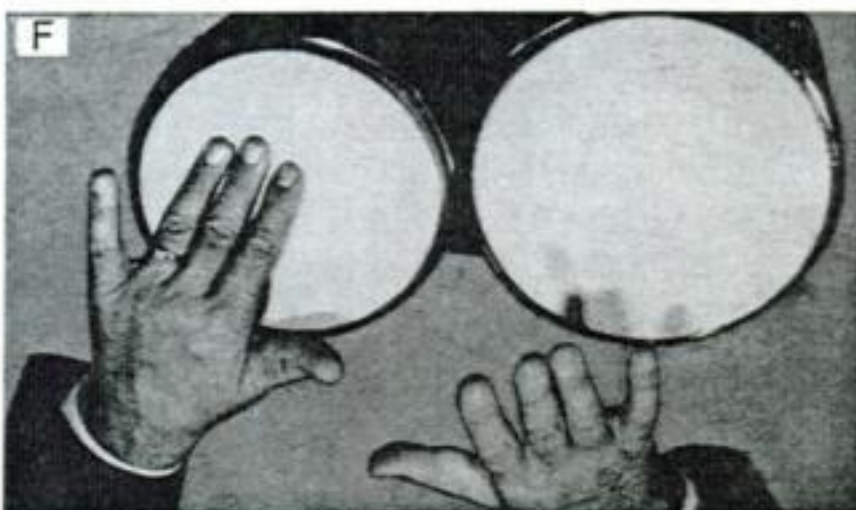
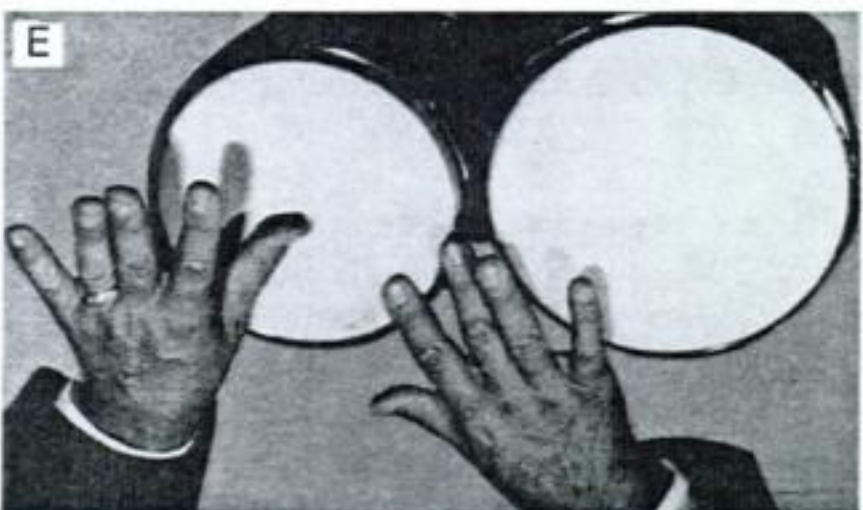
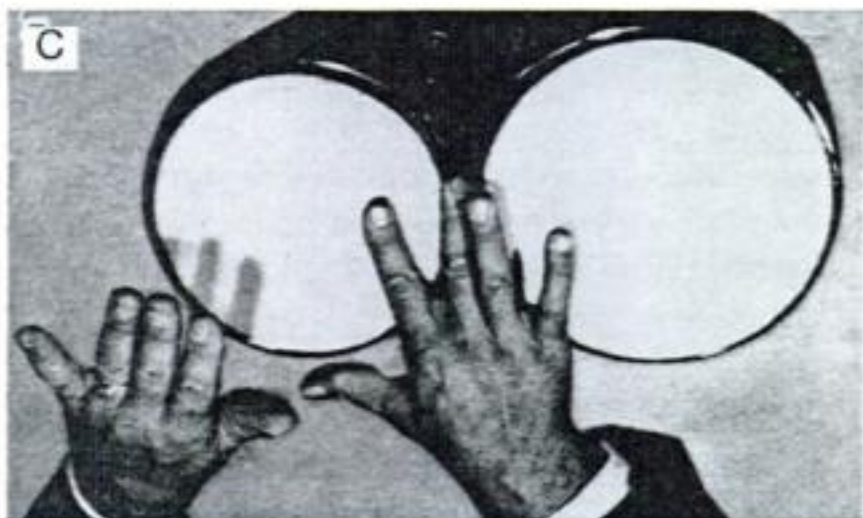
Another important item is to purchase a good set of Bongos or Conga Drum. Like anything else you buy, you usually get just what you pay for. So, pay the few extra dollars and buy good drums. Tunable are the best - they are tightened or loosened with a key or small wrench. These drums also come in various sizes and it is important to get the right size. The standard size for the small Bongo is seven inches in diameter and the large Bongo is eight inches in diameter. The standard size for the Conga Drum is: diameter of head ten inches -- height thirty inches.

The first part of this book will be devoted to the Bongos -- the second part to the Conga Drum.

The Bongos are held between the knees with the small Bongo to the player's left. They may also be mounted on an adjustable stand.

A two-line staff will be used to notate the Bongo rhythms. All notes written on the top line will be played on the small Bongo. All notes written on the bottom line will be played on the large Bongo.

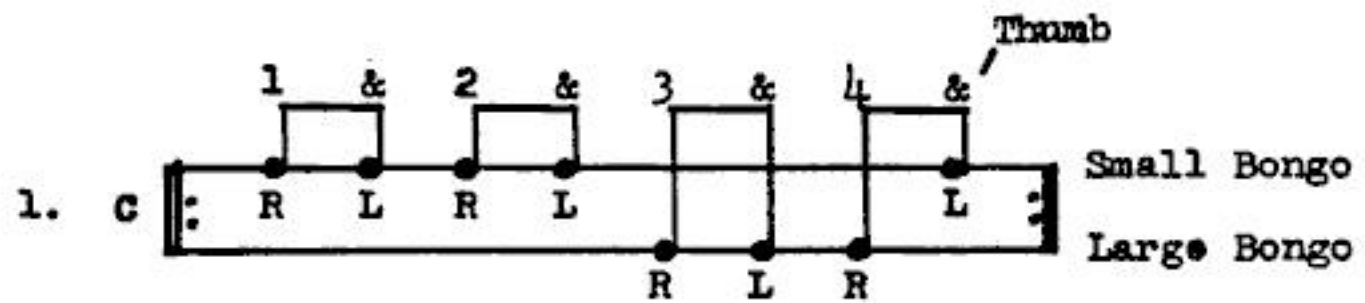
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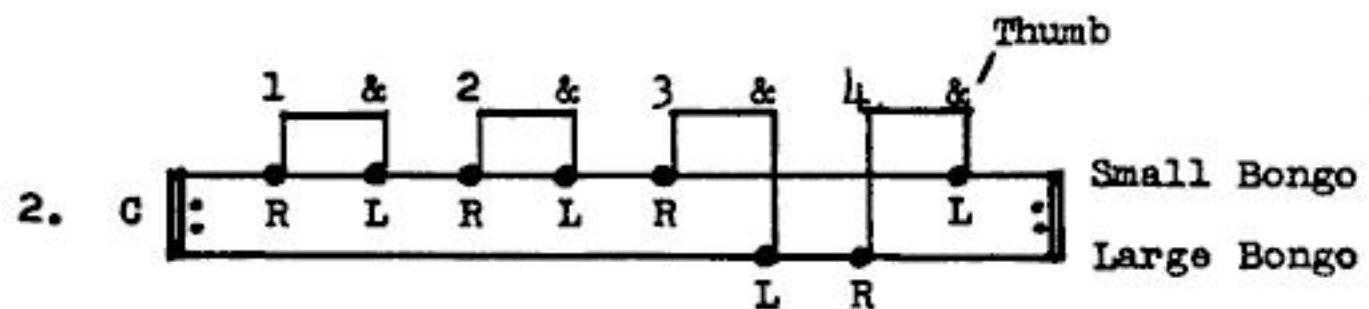


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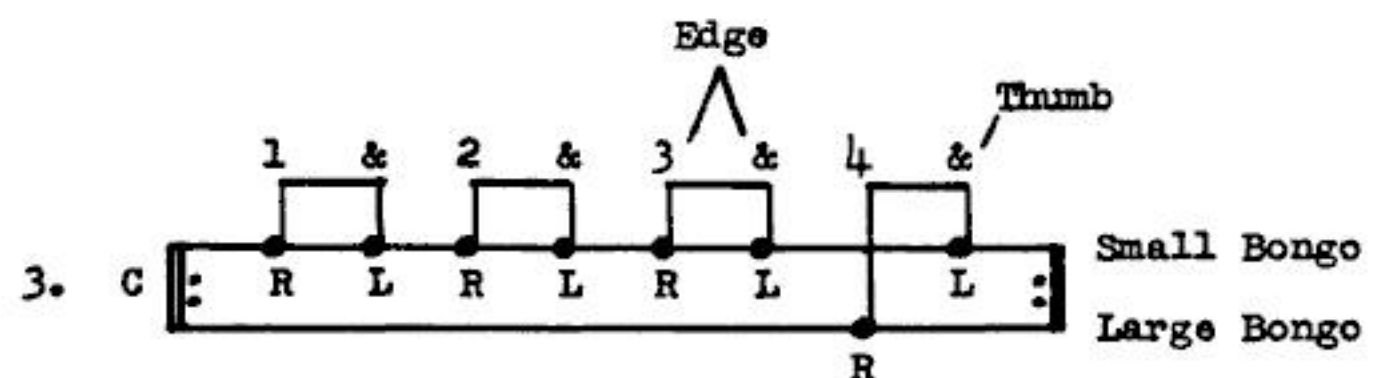
VARIATIONS



In this variation, three notes (3-&-4) will be played on the large Bongo. Use the length of the index fingers of the right and left hands and snap them off the head. Always use the length of the left index finger for all notes written for the left (L) on the large Bongo. All other notes in this variation will be played as explained for the basic rhythm.



In this variation, two notes (&-4) will be played on the large Bongo. Use the length of the index fingers of the left and right hands and snap them off the head. All other notes will be played as explained for the basic rhythm.



In this variation, two notes (3-&) will be played on the edge of the small Bongo. Use the tips of the right and left index fingers and snap them off the head. All other notes will be played as explained for the basic rhythm.



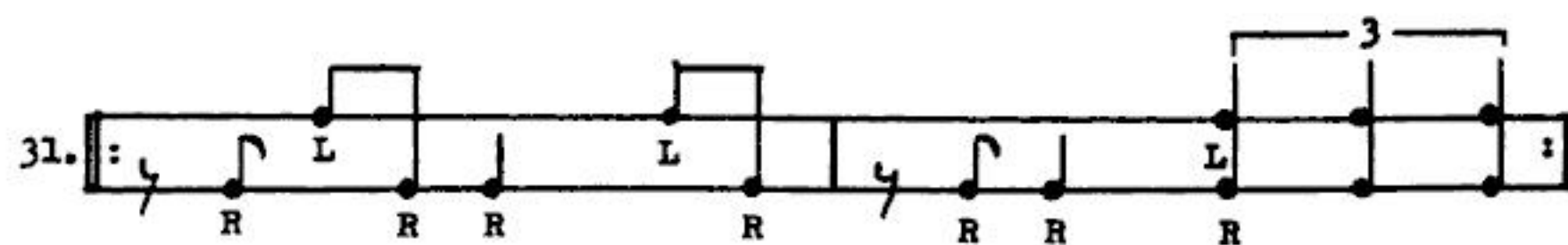
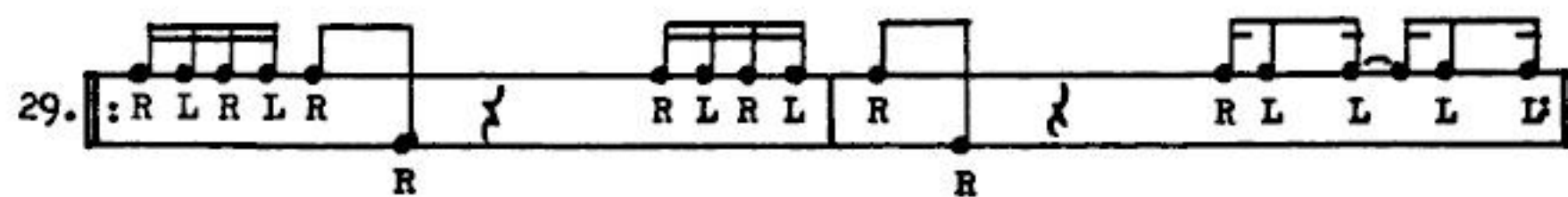
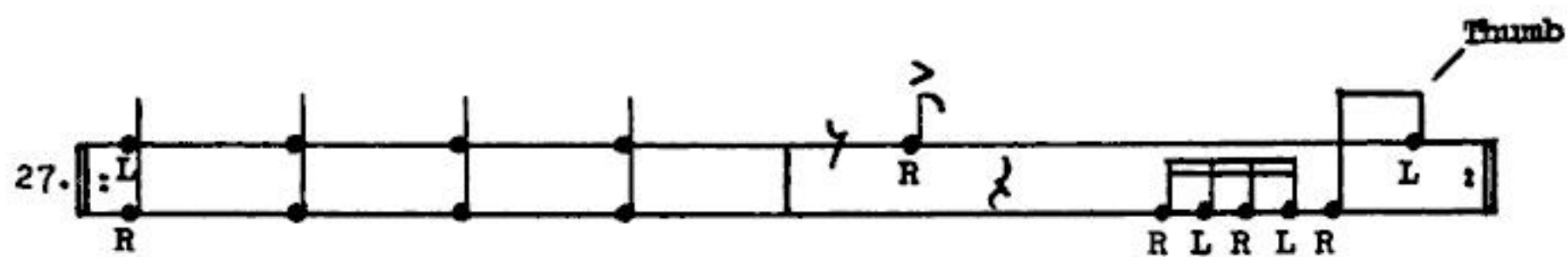
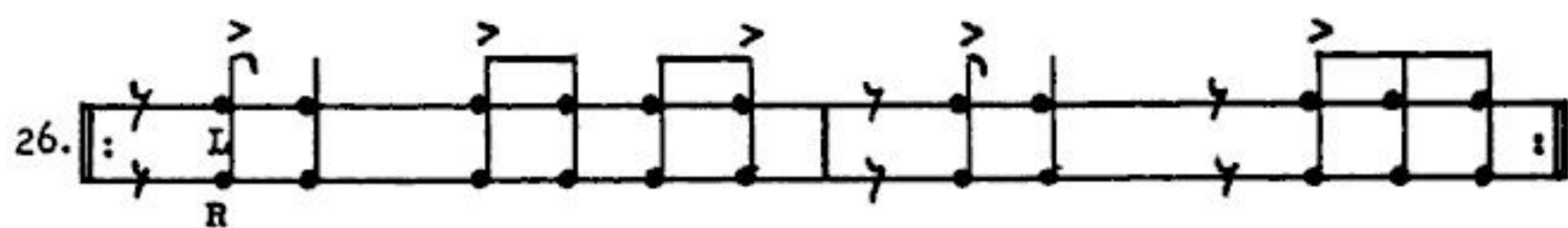
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In the following fill-ins we make use of the single stroke roll.

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